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RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
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STATE FOR WHA/BSC AND EB/IFD/OIA
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR LAC/AA
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR LYANG
NSC FOR SUE CRONIN
TREASURY FOR OSIA MAUREEN WAFER
TREASURY FOR OTA WARFIELD, VAN KOCH, MILLAR
COMMERCE FOR ITA SARAH COOK
SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PARAGUAY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UPDATE, JUNE 17 - JUNE 23 2006

11. (U) SUMMARY:

-- 39 Paraguayan Women trafficked to Spain
-- Government Apologizes for the Deaths of Two Minors
-- Illegally Imported Chemicals

39 Paraguayan Women trafficked to Spain

12. (U) On 6/19, local press reported that 39 Paraguayan women were rescued by Spanish police, based on a tip from an unidentified Paraguayan citizen. The woman informed the police that she was recruited for a job as a waitress in Spain and offered the necessary travel documents to get there. Upon arrival she was forced into prostitution in order to "pay her debts" for the travel. Working on that information, the Spanish authorities initiated operation "Night Moon" in Alicante, Palma de Mallorca, Ibiza and Cuenca. The police raided 5 clubs in those cities, and discovered 146 women working as prostitutes. The police detained 18 members of the network responsible for trafficking the women for sexual exploitation. It is not known at this point if the victims will be repatriated. GOP officials do not have all the details related to this situation and are awaiting a report from Interpol. Post will continue to monitor the developments in this case.

Government Apologizes for the Deaths of Two Minors

13. (U) On 6/20 the Paraguayan Government apologized, for the first time, for the death of two soldiers who were conscripted into the military as minors. The Chancellor Leila Rachid made a public statement on behalf of the state of Paraguay accepting responsibility for the deaths and asking for public pardon, stating that it would not happen again. Victor H. Maciel, of the First Cavalry Division, died on 10/2/1995 due to overexertion. He had a parasitic disease (Chagas) but was not examined upon entering the military, so

the condition went undetected and untreated. Another minor, Gerardo Vargas Areco died on 12/30/1989 after being tortured and shot. Both cases were litigated by the non governmental organization (NGO) the Peace and Justice Service (Serpaj) and the Center for Study and International Rights (CEJIL) before the Interamerican Commission and Court of Human Rights (CIDH), part of the Organization of American States. The Minister of Defense, Roberto Gonzalez, announced that in the Maciel case the state of Paraguay reached a settlement with the family and will pay USD 25,000 in compensation. The sentence in the Vargas Areco case is still pending. General Jose K. Kanazawa, Commander of the Armed Forces, also asked for pardon from the mother of Victor Maciel. Under obligatory military service, 113 Paraguayan soldiers have died since 1989, most of them conscripted while minors. General Kanazawa has presented Congress with two bills to modify the Law of Obligatory Military Service and the CIMEFOR law, in order to guarantee that minors under the age of 18 are not conscripted into the military.

Illegally Imported Chemicals

¶4. (U) SENAD agents discovered that controlled substances were going to be imported illegally through the private port Paksa in Sajonia, neighborhood within Asuncion, and were able to intercept the shipment. On 6/14 a Scania tanker rig, ARX 972, entered the port carrying 15.4 metric tons of anhydride dimethyl acetone and 7.4 metric tons of isopropyl alcohol. Acetone can be used (as DMK-A) in the production of cocaine and heroin. The chemicals were exported from Argentina by Carboclor SA to Chemtec SA, a company that is located in Nemby, approximately 15km North of Asuncion, and is not registered with the Ministry of Public Health. Chemtec SA

failed to register the chemicals with immigration and did not obtain the proper import licenses. The rig belongs to Petroquim, a company that is registered in Paraguay to Carlos **¶A.** Morinigo. SENAD informed Gilda Villalba Tottil, a prosecutor from the Specialized Antinarcotics Unit, of the illegal imports. Villalba and her assistants went to the port and met with its director Carlos Kanonicoff, who allowed them to search the port. They were able to confirm the make and color of the truck and the chemicals that it contained. The substances remain in custody, pending further investigation. If convicted, those responsible for the companies could be sentenced to 5-10 years in prison.

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